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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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RESCHEDULED WAIPAHU GRAFFITI CLEAN-UP ADDS MUSCLE
HECO and City Join Clean-up Effort

Forced to reschedule due to heavy rains earlier in the month, the Waipahu Graffiti Clean-up effort will be conducted on Saturday, April 2, 2005. The more than 60 volunteers originally recruited are expected to gather at 8:00 a.m. at the Leeward YMCA parking lot on Mokuola Street before breaking into groups to remove the eyesores from walls, sidewalks, bus stops, drainage canals and other public areas in Waipahu.

"In the intervening weeks since we had to postpone, we have been able to add a couple of significant players who will really put some real muscle into this effort," said City Councilmember Nestor Garcia, who represents the district and whose office has been helping coordinate the effort on behalf of the Waipahu Community Association and the Leeward YMCA. Garcia said Hawaiian Electric Co. will be taking care of its electrical boxes in the area and the City & County of Honolulu will handle bus stops.

A number of elected officials representing the area who originally indicated they will participate will remain, including State Sen. Clarence Nishihara, State Representatives Rida Cabanilla, Jon Riki Karamatsu, Alex Sonson and Ryan Yamane. "It's good to see that they remain steadfast in their support of this community effort along with the generous participation of local merchants, who are donating everything from paint and cleaning supplies to refreshments for the volunteers," said Henry Aquino, a volunteer teacher and mentor at Waipahu's St. Joseph's Church, and chair of the anti-graffiti campaign.

(more)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Rescheduled Waipahu Graffiti Clean-up Adds Muscle****March 31, 2005****Page 2**

Home Depot and City Mill are donating hundreds of gallons of paint and supplies, while Castle & Cooke will contribute bottled water for the volunteers. Garcia said elected officials from the area have agreed to share in the cost of providing lunches for the volunteers while he will donate breakfast and refreshments for the workers.

Aquino said sponsors and community leaders are hopeful for a big success on this outing because, "it will give us the impetus to make this a regular happening."

The clean-up effort is expected to conclude around noon.

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